

(3) the Company has attempted several times to plug the well, but as of January 28, 2016, those efforts have been unsuccessful;

(4) many residents in the nearby community have reported adverse physical symptoms including dizziness, nausea, and nosebleeds as a result of the natural gas leak, and the continuing emissions from the leak have resulted in the relocation of thousands of people away from their homes and livelihoods;

(5) local schools have temporarily closed, many businesses have been negatively impacted, and regular public services such as mail delivery have also been disrupted;

(6) more than 86,500,000 kilograms of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, have been emitted into the atmosphere, which is—

(A) the equivalent of 2,200,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide; or

(B) more greenhouse gas than 468,000 cars emit in 1 year;

(7) agencies of the State of California issued an emergency order on December 10, 2015, prohibiting injection of natural gas into the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility until further authorization; and

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE.—Not later than 15 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall lead and establish an Aliso Canyon Task Force (referred to in this section as the “task force”).

(c) MEMBERSHIP OF TASK FORCE.—In addition to the Secretary, the task force shall be composed of—

(1) 1 representative from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration;

(2) 1 representative from the Department of Health and Human Services;

(3) 1 representative from the Environmental Protection Agency;

(4) 1 representative from the Department of the Interior;

(5) 1 representative from the Department of Commerce; and

(6) 1 representative from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) FINAL REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the task force shall submit a final report that contains the information described in subparagraph (B) to—

(i) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(ii) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

(iii) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(iv) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

(v) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(vi) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

(vii) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

(viii) the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives;

(ix) the President; and

(x) relevant Federal and State agencies.

(B) INFORMATION INCLUDED.—The report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include, at a minimum—

(i) an analysis and conclusion of the cause of the Aliso Canyon natural gas leak;

(ii) an analysis of measures taken to stop the natural gas leak, with an immediate focus on other, more effective measures that could be taken;

(iii) an assessment of the impact of the natural gas leak on health, safety, the environment, and the economy of the residents and property surrounding Aliso Canyon;

(iv) an analysis of how Federal and State agencies responded to the natural gas leak;

(v) in order to lessen the negative impacts of natural gas leaks, recommendations on how to improve—

(I) the response to a future leak; and

(II) coordination between all appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies in the response to the Aliso Canyon natural gas leak and future natural gas leaks;

(vi) an analysis of the potential for a similar natural gas leak to occur at other underground natural gas storage facilities in the United States;

(vii) recommendations on how to prevent any future natural gas leaks;

(viii) recommendations on whether to continue operations at Aliso Canyon and other facilities in close proximity to residential populations based on an assessment of the risk of a future natural gas leak;

(ix) a recommendation on information that is not currently collected but that would be in the public interest to collect and distribute to agencies and institutions for the continued study and monitoring of natural gas infrastructure in the United States;

(x) an analysis of the impact of the Aliso Canyon natural gas leak on wholesale and retail electricity prices; and

(xi) an analysis of the impact of the Aliso Canyon natural gas leak on the reliability of the bulk-power system.

(2) PUBLICATION.—The final report under paragraph (1) shall be made available to the public in an electronically accessible format.

(3) If, before the final report is submitted under paragraph (1) the task force finds methods to solve the natural gas leak at Aliso Canyon; better protect the affected communities; or finds methods to help prevent other leaks, they must immediately issue such findings to the same entities that are to receive the final report.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary.

AMENDMENT NO. 3205

(Purpose: To provide for the use of geomatic data in consideration of applications for Federal authorization)

On page 196, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

(d) GEOMATIC DATA.—If a Federal or State department or agency considering an aspect of an application for Federal authorization requires the applicant to submit environmental data, the department or agency shall consider any such data gathered by geomatic techniques, including tools and techniques used in land surveying, remote sensing, cartography, geographic information systems, global navigation satellite systems, photogrammetry, geophysics, geography, or other remote means.

AMENDMENT NO. 3160

(Purpose: To strike a provision relating to identifying and characterizing methane hydrate resources using remote sensing and seismic data in the Atlantic Ocean Basin)

On page 263, line 5, strike “or the Atlantic Ocean Basin”.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now vote on these amendments en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on these amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question occurs on agreeing to the amendments en bloc.

The amendments (Nos. 3064; 3065, as modified; 3179; 3145; 3174; 3140, as modified; 3156; 3143; 3194, as modified; 3205; and 3160) were agreed to en bloc.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I appreciate again the cooperation and the working relationship with my ranking member, as well as her very strong and able team working with mine, as well as the floor staff who have been doing a great job.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, we just cleared several amendments in a bipartisan fashion, working back and forth across the aisle, and I so appreciate our colleagues working so diligently on these tonight. If we want to keep making progress, obviously we have to keep communicating, but I thank everybody involved with getting these amendments done.

To my colleague from Alaska, thanks for her diligence in focusing on these issues. Hopefully we will resolve these issues tomorrow. The cloture motion has been filed, so we need to keep moving forward so that we can resolve these issues by the end of this week.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3140, AS MODIFIED

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I did want to mention on amendment No. 3140 that I want to thank everybody who worked on that particular amendment tonight. I know tomorrow we are going to have a colloquy continuing the dialogue among all our colleagues who care about these issues as they relate to energy and biomass and making sure we are all continuing to work on this together. I want to point out that there will be a colloquy on that tomorrow.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MONTAGNARDS OF VIETNAM

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I want to take a moment today to recognize the Montagnard community in my State of North Carolina and in other places across the Nation. I am proud to say that North Carolina is home to the largest population of Montagnards in the United States and home to the largest population of Montagnards outside of Vietnam.

Many Americans may not know about the history behind the United States's special relationship with the Montagnards, which is a history that goes back to the days of the Vietnam war. The Montagnards are an indigenous tribespeople of the central highlands of Vietnam, and during the Vietnam war, it was the Montagnards who were trained by the CIA and Special Operations Forces to fight alongside our troops against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong.

At their own great risk, the Montagnards provided critical intelligence support to our troops on the ground, no doubt saving countless American lives. After the war, the United States took in hundreds of Montagnards into our country as refugees because of the severe persecution they faced from the Vietnamese Government for that very reason. While this indeed is a long overdue recognition, I will be submitting later this week a Senate resolution recognizing their service and sacrifice.

However, I believe our recognition of the Montagnards should not stop at what took place decades ago because even today, in 2016, the government of Vietnam continues to discriminate against them for the loyalty and assistance they provided to the United States some 40 years ago. The government of Vietnam continues to persist in its oppression of the Montagnards' basic human rights: the freedom to practice their Christian faith freely without fear of persecution and the right to education, land ownership, and a decent standard of living. This kind of persecution is well documented in the latest human rights and religious freedom reports published by the State Department and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

The United States of America has an obligation to stand up for the thousands of suffering Montagnards in Vietnam—some of whom were once our comrades-in-arms. I have heard from many Vietnam war veterans in my State who can tell you how much their military assistance and friendship had meant to them. We should not look the other way; we must continue pressing the Vietnamese Government to respect their fundamental human rights. With this Senate resolution, we send a loud and clear message to the Montagnard people: you are not forgotten.

The United States can do better—we must do better—to support this marginalized tribespeople in Vietnam with whom we share a unique and historic bond.

I would ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DONALD "BUDDY" WRAY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the life and legacy of Arkansas businessman and former Tyson Foods executive Donald "Buddy" Wray.

Buddy spent his life building Tyson Foods into one of the world's leading food companies. He was equally committed to serving northwest Arkansas and leaves behind a legacy as a respected community leader.

Buddy started his career as a service technician in 1961, working as the liaison for the many family-contracted farms ensuring the health of the flocks. He rose through the ranks of the company.

As a regular fixture at Tyson, his dedication led him to become the chief operation officer in 1992 and, a year later, the president of the company, a position he held until his retirement in 2000.

His commitment and love for the company led him to serve as part-time consultant, but he returned to full-time service in 2008. Chairman John Tyson says Buddy was "instrumental in everything the company did for over 50 years."

Buddy was a strong voice for the Arkansas poultry industry, always keeping the needs of the farmer close to his heart. He was named the Distinguished Alumni of the Year in 2000 by the University of Arkansas. In 2004, the university established the Donald "Buddy" Wray Chair in Food Safety within the Dale Bumpers College of Agriculture. His exemplary dedication to agriculture was noted in 2012 when he was inducted into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame. In 2015, he was inducted into the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame.

Buddy truly transformed agriculture and was an advocate for Arkansas. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife of 50 years, Linda; children Cindy, Scott, Jana; their eight grandchildren; and the rest of the Wray family.●

RECOGNIZING MARSH DOG

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, small businesses have the unique ability to tackle issues in their communities head on through thoughtful, innovative solutions. This week I am proud to recognize Marsh Dog of Baton Rouge, LA, as being small business of the week for their commitment to preserving and protecting Louisiana's vulnerable coastlines.

In 1998, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries placed a bounty on the nutria rat in an effort to curb the reproduction of the invasive spe-

cies, which has wreaked environment havoc on Louisiana's vulnerable coastal habitats. In response to the bounty, businesses across the State began inventing creative ways to recycle by-products of the rodent.

During this time, Hansel Harlan, the future founder of Marsh Dog, became increasingly concerned with the ingredients he found in mass market dog food products. After reading about the many recalls and the harmful ingredients circulating within the dog food industry, Harlan began toying with the idea of creating custom treats for his canine companion. After a few trial runs and on the suggestion of his sister Veni, Hansel included nutria rat meat into his recipe, creating an all-natural, eco-conscious snack his dog immediately enjoyed. Harlan and Veni, with the blessing of their K-9 taste tester, began developing and marketing the innovative product.

Today Marsh Dog enjoys great success and praise from their customers and environmental groups across the State. In addition to receiving a grant from the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program in 2011, which proved to be the endorsement that catapulted their success, Marsh Dog was also named Conservation Business of the Year by Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

Hansel and Veni embody what it means to be innovative entrepreneurs. They created a solution for two impactful problems in their community, while also growing a successful small business, is a remarkable feat that deserves celebration.

Congratulations again to Marsh Dog of Baton Rouge, LA, this week's small business of the week, and I look forward to having my rescue dog Ranger try your treats.●

RECOGNIZING PATTON'S WESTERN WEAR

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, oftentimes small businesses grow from the humblest of beginnings, providing livelihoods for hard-working entrepreneurs and their families. In rare cases, these small businesses defy all odds, building successful establishments that integrate into their adopted communities, all while supporting local economies and traditions. This week I am proud to recognize Patton's Western Wear of Ruston, LA, as small business of the week for their perseverance in building a solid and successful family-owned and operated retail group that has left its mark across the State of Louisiana.

In 2007, Robert, Patrick, and Thomas Patton used their farming background and extensive experience in retail to open their own western store in Ruston, LA. Catering to the western and oilfield communities of north central Louisiana and southern Arkansas, the Patton brothers began building a reputation for providing a diverse selection of products and quality customer service. One year later, the